

International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society



Message from Chairman and Chief Software Architect, Microsoft Corporation Vision for the New Knowledge-Based Society

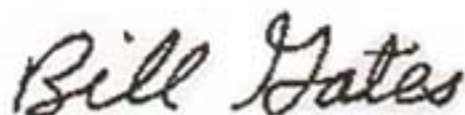
Our common goal should be to provide every classroom in every school with Internet access. The Internet should be part of the curriculum, and we must help every teacher understand how best to use this incredible new tool. Every student starts out with amazing curiosity. They want to explore new subjects. They want to find kids who have similar interests. And the Internet is a fantastic means of letting people go out and explore things on their own. If it's done properly, this knowledge can then be brought back to the classroom and shared with other students. We can also create a "connected learning community," where parents can go online to see homework assignments and assist their kids in researching a topic. But in order for this to become a reality, school curriculums need to be redesigned to take full advantage of the technology.

The Internet is the most amazing tool for educators that has ever been created, but technology alone is not the answer. The answer is great teachers. We need to invest in preparing teachers for the modern classroom. Because for kids born during this decade, the Internet will be a fact of life. And, given the right opportunities, this generation will show us how to take full advantage of this amazing technology.

Children start out with lots of curiosity about the world, and, as I've seen with my own children, they devote an amazing amount of energy to things they're interested in. But if an adult is too busy or can't answer a question, or if a textbook fails to meet a child's particular needs, their curiosity often withers.

The PC helps stimulate that curiosity and encourage children to learn, while at the same time helping parents become more involved in the process. They can see what their children are learning at school, keep track of homework that has been assigned, and work with teachers to ensure that their children are getting the education they need. And at home they can spend time with their children on the PC, keep an eye on what they're using it for, and showing them how to use it appropriately.

I hope we can play a vital role in changing our society to become a Knowledge-based society. Best wishes for the conference.



(Bill Gates)

Chairman and Chief Software Architect, Microsoft Corporation